National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

The effects of environmental stressors on the mortality of the oldest old male population in Hong Kong, 1977-2006

Author(s): Chau PH, Yen E, Morley JE, Woo J
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Abstract:

Although age-sex-specific mortality rates were decreasing over the years, such a trend was not observed for the male population aged 85 or above (the oldest old) in Hong Kong. Despite literature suggesting that environmental stressors were associated with higher mortality, the adverse effects of socioeconomic and political events were seldom included. Hence, this study explored the relationship between environmental stressors covering adverse weather conditions as well as key socioeconomic and political events and fluctuations in the oldest old mortality rates in Hong Kong during the period 1977 to 2006. The oldest old mortality rates in Hong Kong were observed to have a likelihood of being associated with these environmental stressors. Furthermore, men appeared to be more susceptible to these risk factors than did women. More care and attention should be given to the oldest old men, in particular, during periods of socioeconomic or political upheavals. A cohort study would be useful to study these stressors in greater detail.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: China

Health Impact: ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified